

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. - 5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently amended) A self-leveling system that serves to prevent damage to the roadway surrounding a gully-hole and a street sewer, the system comprising:

a frame having an upper portion and a lower portion; and

a tubular section;

wherein the upper portion of the frame has a horizontal wall which serves to transmit to the ground forces directly applied to the frame, such that the frame is supported by the ground ~~supported on the ground, wherein the horizontal wall serves as a foundation of the frame and transmits the forces applied thereto,~~

wherein an upper extremity of the tubular section is freely engaged inside the lower portion of the frame,

wherein the frame is free to move ~~displace~~ vertically and angularly, and is capable of sliding along an external wall of the tubular section ~~so as to allow the frame and displace in the vertical direction~~ as a result of the expansion of the ground occasioned by the frost or as a result of settling of the surrounding ground, and

wherein the lower portion of the frame has an inclined wall which allows the frame to move angularly in any direction ~~be capable of positioning itself at an angle~~ relative to the axis of the tubular section as a result of differential settling of the surrounding ground ~~ground movement~~ or as to follow the slope of the ground, and

wherein the tubular section remains at its same position during vertical or angular movement of the frame.

7. (Previously presented) The self-leveling system as defined in claim 6, wherein the upper portion of the frame has a downwardly inclined internal wall which serves to direct run-off water toward the tubular section.

8. (Previously presented) The self-leveling system as defined in claim 6, wherein the upper and lower portions of the frame each has an aperture for receiving run-off water, the aperture of the upper portion being eccentric relative to the aperture of the lower portion.

9. - 12. (Cancelled)